


BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

For Fiscal Year 2022

 Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
 RECEIVED: 03/16/2022 6:52:20 PM

Primary Applicant (Name and Address): MH Telecom, LLC d/b/a MHTC 305 N Iowa St Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx . Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions. Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: March 17, 2022 at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. Late applications will not be accepted.		
	Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov		
	Date: December 1, 2021		
The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.			
Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.			
Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print) John Van Ooyen	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> Title CEO/General Manager </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> Phone () (608) 437-5551 </td> </tr> </table>	Title CEO/General Manager	Phone () (608) 437-5551
Title CEO/General Manager	Phone () (608) 437-5551		
Signature of Authorized Representative 	Date March 16, 2022		

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name MH Telecom, LLC	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) \$732,486
Federal Employer Identification No. 39-1909951	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) \$488,324
Contact Name and Title John Van Ooyen, CEO/General Manager	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) \$1,220,810
Telephone Number (608) 437-5551	Project Name MHTC-Cty Rd K South Iowa County
E-mail Address(es) John.vanooyen@mhtcinc.com	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) FTTH
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant N/A	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) Last-Mile
Grant Manager Contact Name N/A	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number N/A
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations County of Iowa, 222 N. Iowa St., Dodgeville, WI 53533, FEIN: 39-6005701 Town of Brigham, 407 Business ID, Barneveld, WI 53507, FEIN: 39-6007914	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) This is a FTTH project along the Cty Rd K south corridor in Iowa County serving 70 FTTH locations, with a foundation to add additional FTTH locations in the future. As an ancillary benefit to this project, MHTC with general funds, will upgrade equipment on 3 existing fixed wireless towers and upgrade to fiber based backhaul which will significantly improve broadband access and speeds to approximately 206 additional rural locations. ("Project")	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed 1 Gbps	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed 1 Gbps
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location 100 Mbps	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location 100 Mbps
County or Counties served by this project Iowa County	Community or Communities served by this project Town of Brigham, Moscow, Ridgeway, and Waldwick
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve Frontier Communications, Bug Tussel Wireless, LiteWire, MHTC	

Does proposed project serve an <u>unserved</u> area of the State, as defined in Section 1.4 of the application instruction? (yes/no) No	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) Yes
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). 2	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). 68
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ? 0	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ? 0
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) Yes	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) Yes
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) Yes	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) Yes
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) No (open to this in the future)	

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
MH Telecom, LLC	MHTC-Cty Rd K South Iowa County

Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 599,448.00	\$ 399,632.00	\$ 999,080.00
2	Equipment	\$ 32,952.00	\$ 21,968.00	\$ 54,920.00
3	Supplies	\$ 13,458.00	\$ 8,972.00	\$ 22,430.00
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 15,528.00	\$ 10,352.00	\$ 25,880.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Other	\$ 71,100.00	\$ 47,400.00	\$ 118,500.00
Total:		\$ 732,486.00	\$ 488,324.00	\$ 1,220,810.00
40.0% match requested				

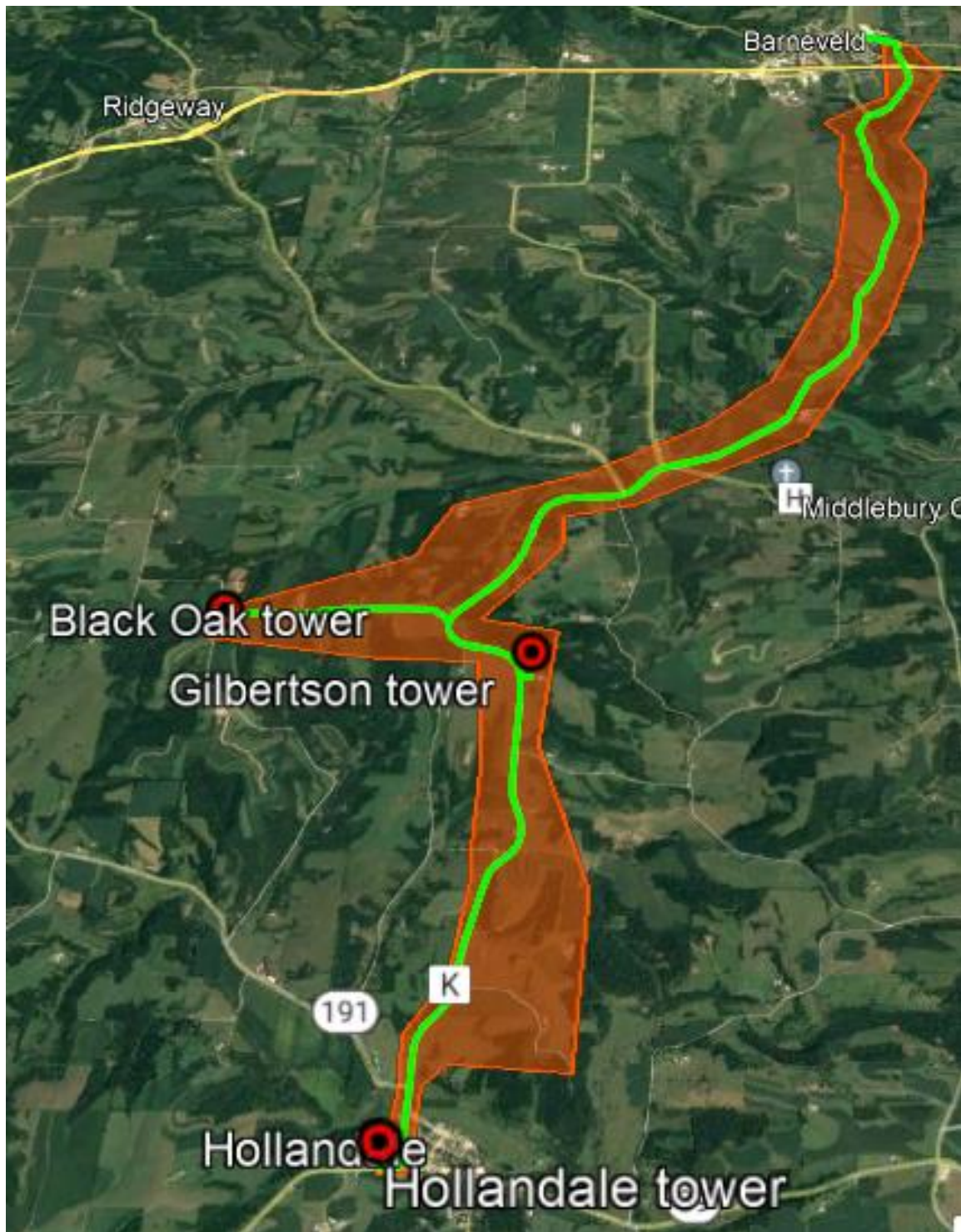
Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	MH Telecom, LLC	Applicant	Cash	\$ 315,676.00
2	County of Iowa	Partner	Cash	\$ 146,497.00
3	Town of Brigham	Partner	Cash	\$ 26,151.00
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 488,324.00

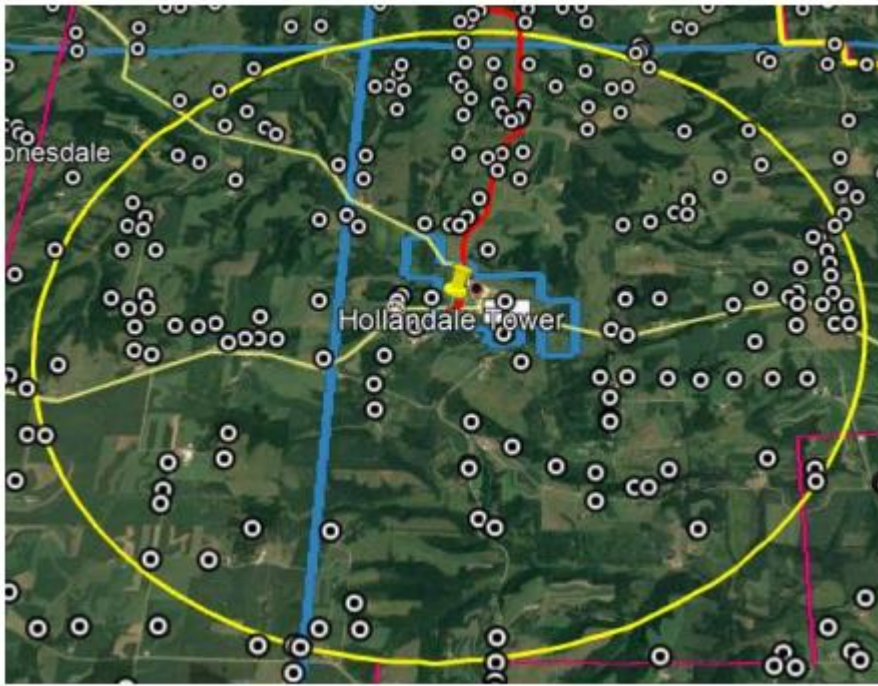
3.2.2 Description of the Project

a. Static Map

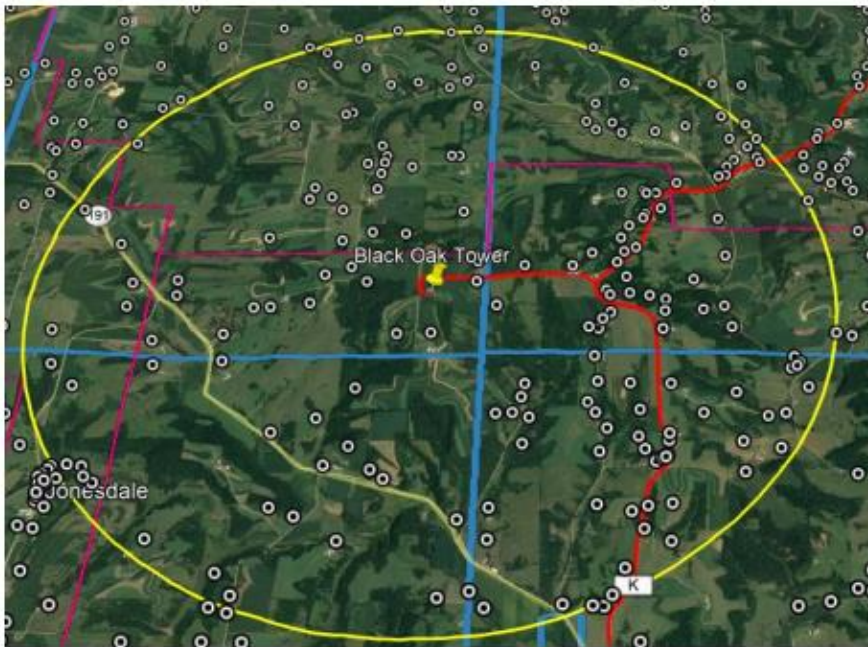
Cty Rd K South proposed fiber route (in green)



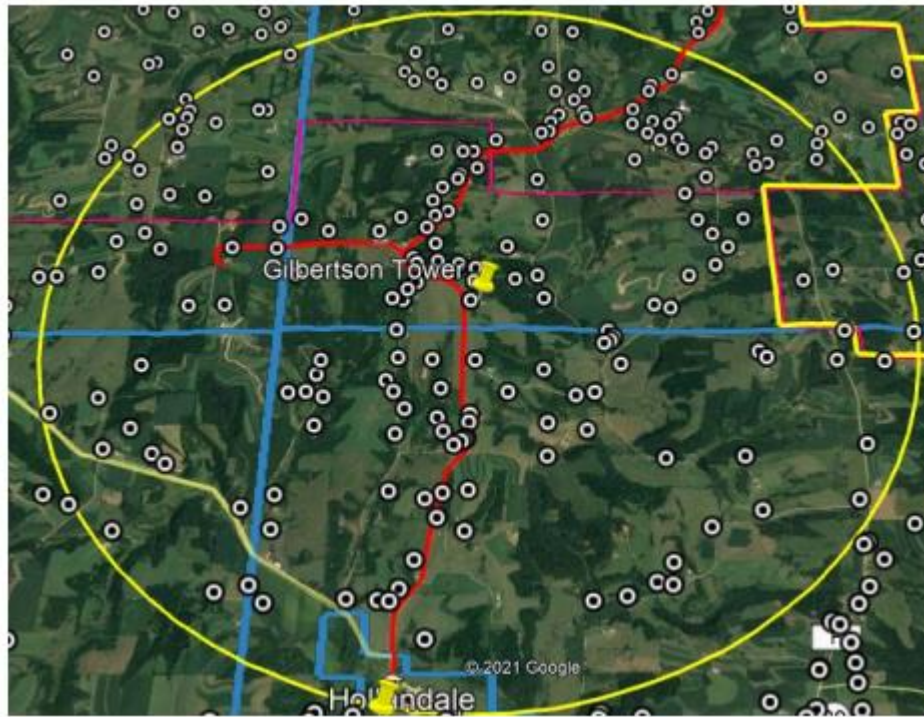
Hollandale Tower (3 mi radius) with Iowa County addresses



Black Oak Tower (3 mi radius) with Iowa County addresses



Gilbertson Tower (3 mi radius) with Iowa County addresses



b. Demonstrate Actual Service Available

MHTC identified forty-five (45) locations on the Wisconsin Public Broadband Map that are located in the shaded area depicted as being served. Appendix A included with this application submission serves to demonstrate the actual service available. Specifically, thirty-six (36) of the residential locations that are depicted as served on the Wisconsin Broadband Map indicate “Frontier is not available” when researching each individual location. The locations indicated as served are actually underserved as the additional providers listed are LiteWire, Bug Tussel Wireless and MHTC. The locations in question are heavily wooded with significant tree cover that prevents the transmission of fixed wireless broadband service. Actual examples and mapping material depicting this is also part of Appendix A.

c. Explanation of Proposed Project

MH Telecom, LLC., d/b/a MHTC (“MHTC”) submits this grant application for a FTTH network in the rural area south of the Village of Barneveld in Iowa County in the amount of \$732,486 which is 60% of the project’s \$1,220,810 total cost. MHTC in collaboration with its public-private partnership will contribute \$488,324 (40% match) to the project. This last mile project will benefit 70 FTTH locations in an underserved quadrant of Iowa county south of the Village of Barneveld. All FTTH locations within the Project area will have the availability of 1 Gbps/1 Gbps bandwidth upon completion. Currently some customers are showing in areas depicted as served on the Wisconsin Broadband map however MHTC has speed test letters and support from a combination of these locations and locations positioned near or next to locations that report not being able to receive broadband service.

The MHTC-Cty Rd K South Iowa County project area is rural, and sparsely populated with permanent locations predominantly comprised of family farms and homes. Although rural these locations still have needs for access to telehealth, remote learning, and the ability to work remotely and these needs are inhibited and, in many cases, completely prohibited as a result of the lack of access to broadband.

This access was critical during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to be critical as the rural community in the proposed project area attempts to recovery economically.

The FTTH packages available are:

- 300Mbps/300Mbps \$59.99
- 600Mbps/600Mbps \$79.99
- 1Gbps/1Gbps \$99.99
- 2Gbps/2Gbps \$149.99

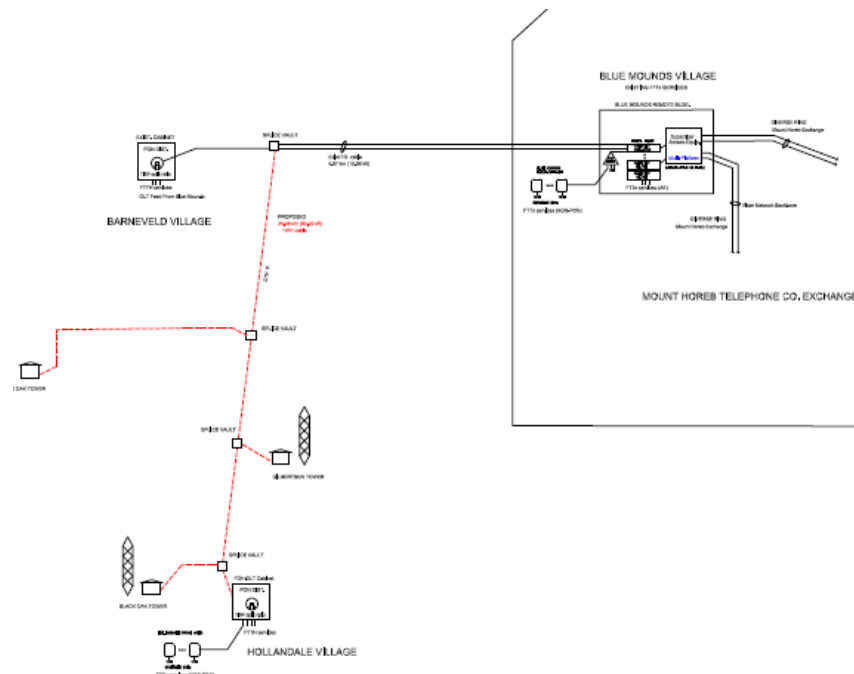
The ancillary benefits of upgrading three existing fixed wireless towers are significantly improved internet speed and capacity to approximately 206 rural fixed wireless locations. MHTC estimates based on propagation maps and tree coverage that 154 locations will qualify for broadband speeds of 100 Mbps/20 Mbps and the remaining 52 locations will qualify for Broadband speeds of 50 Mbps/10 Mbps.

d. Proposed Project Infrastructure Type

MHTC's proposed project is a last mile infrastructure project with FTTH design constructed over forward looking fiber facilities.

e. Description Broadband Technology

The technology that will be used for FTTH portion of the project, provisioned via a buried fiber network utilizing a 10 Gigabit (Gbps) symmetrical passive optical network (XGS-PON) system which will include: integration of fiber optic cable to the premise from the central office or a remote cabinet location, OLT and associated XGS-PON system electronics located in the central office and remote cabinet locations, centralized splitter cabinets with associated splitters for each designated PON area, and optical network terminal (ONT) equipment at the subscriber premise. The FTTH and XGS-PON network for this project will be capable of simultaneously serving all 70 locations in the project area with initial 1 Gbps speeds that can be scaled to meet future demands. The FTTH network will tie back to MHTC's existing network maximizing efficiencies and capitalizing on the network monitoring and redundancy mechanisms in place for existing FTTH network equipment and subscribers.



g. Project Schedule

<u>Project Timeline</u>	Project Phase Target Dates							
	Year 1				Year 2			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Project Objectives and Activities								
Project Planning and pre-engineering	X							
Ordering and Staging Equipment	X	X						
Electronics Installation, Set-up and Testing		X	X					
Construction: bury mainline and distribution fiber, and OSP splicing	X	X	X	X				
Install drop-fiber and electronics, and testing at Subscriber locations			X	X	X	X	X	X
Digital Literacy and Community Outreach		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

3.2.3 Itemized Budgets

MHTC has provided a project budget in the Budget and Income Summary, reference page 4 of this application.

MH Telecom, LLC., d/b/a MHTC (“MHTC”) submits this grant application for a FTTH infrastructure network in the rural area south of the Village of Barneveld in Iowa County along the Hwy K corridor in the amount of \$732,486 which is 60% of the project’s \$1,220,810 total cost. MHTC in collaboration with its public-private partnership will contribute \$488,324 (40% match) to the project as stated in the pledge resolution and includes a Letter of Interest from RTFC as support of its pledged funds. MHTC has provided the costs for FTTH drops, Optical Network Terminals (ONT) and professional services that are required to manage and document the FTTH build.

The MHTC-Cty Rd K South Iowa County project budget total costs is primarily derived from the purchase, plowing, splicing, and boring of fiber facilities and accounts for \$999,080 of the total project. The XGS-PON, OLT, and ONT electronic equipment accounts for \$54,920, and installation labor and permitting and contingencies make up the remaining \$166,810. As shown in the Budget and Income Summary, MHTC is planning to use the grant funds solely for the purpose of constructing a FTTH network in order to provide broadband to the underserved locations in the proposed project area. The facilities constructed by MHTC for the proposed project area would be owned and maintained by MHTC.

MHTC affirms that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. All grant funds requested in this application will be used for the sole purposes of constructing and implementing the proposed broadband infrastructure described in this application.

3.2.4 Priority Factors Supporting the Application

a. Matching Funds

MHTC does commit to contributing matching funds to this grant project. The matching funds commitment substantiation is firm and is supplied as the Letter of Interest by RTFC bank as issued to MHTC included with this application. Additionally, MHTC's public private partners are committing matching funds, Iowa County Resolution No. 8-322 declares their funding commitment and the Town of Brigham commits funds in the public private partnership agreement. The funding commitment documents are all provided as supplemental documents at the end of the submitted application document.

b. Public-Private Partnerships

MHTC has entered into a Public Private Partnership with the County of Iowa ("Iowa County") and Town of Brigham for the proposed grant project area. The MHTC, Iowa County and Town of Brigham partnerships will facilitate the development of broadband services to underserved areas within the County and Township boundaries to support economic development and deliver broadband to rural families for business, educational and telecommuting opportunities by addressing existing service disparities. MHTC, Iowa County and Town of Brigham are committed to and are working diligently on a long-term partnership which will promote FTTH and improved broadband access throughout Iowa County and Town of Brigham. While MHTC, Iowa County and Town of Brigham are contributing matching funds to the Project, the capital investment required to construct the FTTH network is costly, and Grant funding is required to create a financially viable business model.

MHTC, is proposing to deliver a sustainable and forward looking FTTH broadband project while offering affordable rates and participating in programs to allow low-income subscribers to receive additional discounts. If funding is awarded, the proposed project will pass 70 locations offering broadband and speeds exceeding those historically required by the Wisconsin Grant Program.

c. Existing Broadband Service

The entire proposed project area meets the definition of underserved as defined by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in the Application Guide definitions. MHTC utilized the Wisconsin Broadband Map as the basis for determining eligible locations. Additionally, MHTC requested and received speed test data and letters from residents and businesses within the proposed project area further asserting and substantiating that the Project area is by definition underserved.

d. Project Impact

The MHTC-Cty Rd K South Iowa County project will have a significant impact for the residential and business subscribers located in the area providing broadband speeds of up to 1 Gbps to all FTTH locations in the project area. The proposed fiber project would provide broadband services to those that struggle to access the internet for working remote, remote learning, access to telemedicine, and e-commerce at speeds of up to 1 Gbps delivered simultaneously to all locations.

The FTTH packages available are:

- 300Mbps/300Mbps \$59.99
- 600Mbps/600Mbps \$79.99
- 1Gbps/1Gbps \$99.99
- 2Gbps/2Gbps \$149.99

MHTC's proposed project will assist the rural communities to recover economically from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing affordable high-speed fiber broadband to these areas that lack sufficient access to broadband. The project will also ensure all rural residents in the proposed project areas have equitable access to qualified broadband. Historically, access to broadband was a benefit; however, the COVID-19 pandemic has made access to qualified broadband a necessity for locations in the area as the shelter-in-place requirement imposed by School Boards, businesses and local Governments dictated learning via remote access, working remotely, and medical facilities opting for telemedicine virtual visits over in-person for routine medical treatment.

The ancillary benefits of upgrading three existing fixed wireless towers are significantly improved internet speed and capacity to approximately 206 rural fixed wireless locations. MHTC estimates based on propagation maps and tree coverage that 154 locations will qualify for broadband speeds of 100 Mbps/20 Mbps and the remaining 52 locations will qualify for Broadband speeds of 50 Mbps/10 Mbps.

e. Scalability

MHTC's technology that will be used for the project is FTTH, provisioned via a buried fiber network utilizing a 10 Gigabit (Gbps) symmetrical passive optical network (XGS-PON) system. The system as installed is forward looking as it is capable of delivering 10Gbps while most other providers current maximum available is 1Gbps. Electronics can be upgraded or replaced in the future to meet additional bandwidth demand requirements. Additionally, the fiber loop plant and cabinets installed for this proposed project area will have capacity for spare fiber and in the hardware to allow for area growth and addition of new subscribers to the area.

f. Economic Development

MHTC's proposed project will promote job growth, retention and expand the property tax base in the proposed project area. Specifically providing broadband will allow new businesses to move to the Barneveld area, serve as a retention tool for small business owners considering moving away from the area as a means of obtaining the much-needed broadband connectivity for their operations, and help family and new businesses capitalize on opportunities that broadband connectivity will afford them. These are not theoretical examples as MHTC is summarizing below letters received from business owners substantiating these claims. The summarized letters are included in their entirety in Appendix B of this application.

Letter 01—Bowser—"I also run our farm-based business. I sell wool and products from our 100 sheep through my website. To sell to fiber artists I use high quality photography of my products. It takes an enormous amount of time to add photos and maintain my website with the slow speed. Additionally, when I have a customer that requests more images, I am limited to sending small files. As video is becoming more and more important in social media and a company's web presence my business is unable to keep up. It is just not possible to provide video with our current speed. This is what I mean when I state that rural citizens (businesses) are at a disadvantage."

Letter 02—Kaufman—"I am an engineer, and doing 3D CAD work, or dealing with large data sets for analysis, has been a slow process at best, as our company keeps all data on our servers. My wife's work is hampered in similar ways with her tools for her job taking tens of seconds to complete small tasks, where the response is nearly instantaneous when she is in her office. I have recently taken on

consulting work that I do remotely from home, putting a premium on having reliable, high-speed connectivity.”

Letter 03—Grimmer & Christenson—“We are residents of Iowa County, Wisconsin and live on County Rd K. Within the last couple years, we moved near Hollandale to start and run a small vegetable production farm. We were hoping to be able to have reliable internet albeit slow however most of the time we are getting underserved in speed making it near impossible to run a business with an online presence, let alone get other remote job work for winter. We are sending this letter of support for the Broadband Expansion Grant application by Mt. Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC). We are in full support of this broadband deployment to provide service to unserved areas of our county as the one in which we live.”

Letter 04—Mortvedt—“My wife is also a realtor and maintains her business from our house. The challenges with our internet consistently provide issues communicating with her clients via video calls and even voice calls while connected to the internet. She is forced to call back clients in the middle of a conversation and it looks like she is unprofessional.”

g. Effect Upon Broadband Service to Adjacent Areas

MHTC’s proposed project will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area. MHTC does not have any exclusive easement or ROW contracts in place.

3.2.5 Other Information Supporting the Application

a. Applicant’s History

MHTC, a Wisconsin based corporation, is certified by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (“Commission”) as an Alternative Telecommunications Utility to provide telecommunications service in Wisconsin. MHTC is a 100% owned affiliate of Mount Horeb Telephone Company (“Company”) also a Wisconsin corporation certified by the Commission as an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (“ILEC”) to provide telecommunications service in Wisconsin. MHTC’s parent company, Mount Horeb Telephone Company has been providing telecommunications service in its designated ILEC territory since 1919 and internet access since 1995.

MHTC has been providing voice and broadband services to the locations in Dodgeville since November 2001. MHTC has been working diligently since 2006 to replace copper plant facilities and transition the broadband facilities to all be provisioned over fiber to the home (“FTTH”). MHTC is committed to being a strong partner and displaying community involvement while continually upgrading equipment and offerings to provide the optimal technology to connect rural clients.

In 2021, MHTC was recognized as being a Smart Rural Community and Gig-Certified provider by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA). This means our network was tested and was certified capable of speeds up to 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps). The road to a Smart Rural Community (SRC) starts with collaboration between rural broadband providers and forward-thinking community members. The NTCA Smart Rural Community program celebrates the commitment of these individuals to drive growth and create opportunities within their communities. Robust broadband networks built by SRC providers power economic development, effective education, state-of-the-art health care and so much more.



GIG-CERTIFIED PROVIDER

MHTC has a history of building broadband networks capable of delivering the bandwidth promised and honoring commitments to build the networks in rural Wisconsin that are comparable to, or in some cases better than, the broadband available in urban areas.

b. Proposed Project Will Not Duplicate Existing Broadband Infrastructure

MHTC's proposed project will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure as the proposed project area is currently underserved and lacking adequate infrastructure.

c. Description of Applicant's Financial Ability to Undertake the Project

MHTC's Parent Company has been in business since 1919 and has built and maintained their network through the years with the use of internal staffing and resources. It is this same experienced staff that will be undertaking the proposed project. MHTC has an internal customer support team and also partners with a Network Operations Center with trained staff that manage and monitor our networks 24/7/365. MHTC offers a managed SmartGuard home Wi-Fi service to all our Broadband customers. MHTC's network management includes conducting remote checks, monitoring vendor releases, software updates, and maintaining network security and performance for all our customers that subscribe to our Broadband service. MHTC's experienced broadband staff consults, builds, installs, and provides support 24/7/365 through our trained local staff.

MHTC's parent company has been providing state of the art telecommunications services in its designated ILEC territory since 1919 and internet access since 1995 and MHTC has been providing service in Dodgeville, WI Iowa County since 2001. MHTC has been aggressively deploying FTTH throughout its ILEC service territory since 2006, MHTC has been expanding into neighboring rural unserved and underserved locations.

MHTC continues to expand its fiber network to provide sufficient broadband service throughout Dane and Iowa County that is scalable and supports future commercial and residential bandwidth needs. MHTC prides itself in delivering quality, reliable broadband access at an affordable rate. Furthermore, MHTC values the local partnerships we make to improve our communities by improving Broadband access with sufficient bandwidth across our footprint including extending FTTH in rural communities. Examples of this include:

In 2016 MHTC applied for and was awarded a Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant in the amount of \$55,360 to expand its fiber network to the City of Dodgeville Business Park and nearby businesses in the Town of Dodgeville to provide business customers broadband service in an unserved area. This project included 36 business locations and 28 additional business lots yet to be developed. This Project was completed by MHTC on March 29, 2017. Over 44 locations now have access to a FTTH network.

In 2017 MHTC applied for and was awarded a Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant in the

amount of \$126,162 for the Iowa County fixed wireless project. This project provided broadband service utilizing fixed wireless to rural Iowa County residents which supported up to 25Mbps/3Mbps within the project area. This project was completed by MHTC in September 2019. Over 766 locations now have expanded broadband access.

In 2018 Company applied for and was awarded a Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant in FY 2018 Round #2 in the amount of \$244,200. This project was completed by MHTC in November 2021. This project delivered FTTH to 74 Town of Brigham locations which have access to 1,000 Mbps/1,000 Mbps.

In 2020 Company applied for and was awarded a PSC CARES Broadband Grant in the amount of \$246,239.60. This project provided FTTH to 2 business locations and 30 residential locations and was completed December 2020.

MHTC's success in broadband deployment is directly linked to the financial, technical, and professional expertise from all employee levels within the organization. It is this experienced staff that has aided in the successful deployment of the existing broadband network and projects successfully completed over the past few years. MHTC has a proven track record of successfully completing infrastructure projects similar to the one being requested as part of this grant application.

f. Proposed Project's Impact on Telehealth

MHTC's proposed project will be a tool for rural health facilities insomuch as difficulties exist for remote rural healthcare facilities because they are often unable to attract, afford or retain specialty providers. Telemedicine helps resolve these issues by allowing access to specialists regardless of geographic location of the patient or provider. Telemedicine technology paired with specialty medical devices can enable a remote physician to "see" the patient as if they were actually in the exam room with the patient. The specialist can examine the patient, review vital signs and patient history; provide assessment, diagnosis and treatment all while the patient is in the comfort of their own home, minimizing or eliminating the need for travel for either the patient or the specialist.

One such provider, Upland Hills Health in Iowa County provided a letter of support, submitted with this application, and explaining the problems faced as a result of lack of broadband. Upland Hills Health shared how many rural residents do not have sufficient bandwidth to access telehealth appointments, how the health center themselves lack sufficient bandwidth to support a back-up broadband connection for disaster recovery of medical records, and how the facility does not have sufficient bandwidth to stream internet health programs in the facilities for patients to view.

An entry from Letter 01—Bowser, mentions "I have been unable to use video appointments with my physician, we could only maintain a phone conversation due to the lack of video quality with the internet speed."

g. Proposed Project's Impact on Access to Educational Opportunities

MHTC's proposed project in Iowa County, where according to U.S. Census data 22.3% of the population is between 5-18 years of age, will deliver speeds of up to 1 Gbps to each location. These speeds are more than adequate for multiple students within the household to simultaneously stream live classroom feeds for virtual school attendance, conduct research for homework assignments, access and complete testing, and general access to all educational opportunities available via broadband connections.

From Letter 05—Underly—"My wife, Dr. Jill Underly (Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction) has to remote into conferences and interviews on almost a daily basis. Many times, she cannot use her webcam because of latency. In fact, she has had to drive into Madison to give remote interviews and appearances because our connection does not meet the minimum speed requirement. My two teenage children, as well as many other children who live along County Road K, could not and cannot not effectively remote into their classes."

Letter 07—Kitelinger—"I'm very grateful that my children are young enough that they didn't have to do online learning these past 2 years. They would not have been able to do it at home."

Letter 08—Nelson—"No one along County Road K in Iowa County, regardless of segment, can properly support virtual learning."

h. Grant Application Support

As mentioned above, MHTC has entered into public-private partnerships which provides matching funds for the project area as well as continuing to foster positive community relations. Additionally, MHTC's proposed project is located in Iowa County, which is Certified as a Broadband Forward! Community.

Iowa County unanimously approved two resolutions on March 15, 2022, formally enacting the public-private partnership and matching contributions of \$146,497 with MHTC. The resolution documents, numbered 7-322 & 8-322, are included in Appendix D.

Town of Brigham unanimously approved a public-private partnership with matching funds of \$26,151 on March 15, 2022. That agreement is included in Appendix E.

i. Letters of Support

MHTC's proposed project has garnered significant support and survey responses which show and tell the need and impact of lack of broadband in the proposed project area. In addition to the three (3) summarized letters below an additional nine (9) are included with this application in Appendix B. These letters share the struggles of working from home, accessing telehealth, and inability to conduct basic tasks due to lack of sufficient broadband access.

Letter 12—Schlimgen—speaks directly about service quality and the importance of service when working from home. "We have gone multiple days without service and had to find different working options when trying to run a business along with my wife working from home, have to find another location to work from that has privacy as she needs it for the job she has."

Letter 10—Meyers—describes the difficulties of the terrain in this area and the limitations it imposes on options for reliable service. "We are constantly searching for new options. Our home is located in a valley, and MHTC has been to our home several times and confirmed that we don't have line-of-sight to towers which would allow us to use "wireless" DSL. We have tried Hughes Net and that was a disaster. Using our phones as wi-fi hotspots isn't a practical option due to cost and slow speeds."

Letter 11—Upland Hills Health—mentions the importance of sufficient broadband for telehealth needs. "Adequate broadband is essential in ensuring that our patients have access to telehealth appointments. Currently, many of our rural residents do not have sufficient bandwidth for such visits."

j. Discussion on Equitable Factors Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute § 196.03(6)

Broadband Adoption Activities Planned for Project:

1. A plan to actively promote the adoption of newly available broadband service to the community. MHTC does have a comprehensive plan in place by which it will promote the newly available broadband service to the community. This plan includes but is not limited to:

1. Coordinated communication with the educational community and area schools to raise awareness of the new fiber facilities being constructed, updating progress, sharing information on how parents of school age children can submit pre orders and offering promotions to upgrade and new services when available.
2. Webpage once available, specifically announcing availability with promotions for upgrading and new services in each expansion area community.

Upon project completion MHTC's project area will be incorporated into all marketing and sales programs to ensure all promotional and educational materials are provided in the incorporated MHTC initial service area are also made available to those locations.

2. Provision of technical support or training on how to connect correctly to the new broadband service.

MHTC will offer its Technical Support access web tools to the locations in the proposed project area. The MHTC Support page tools and options were designed to eliminate confusion and troubles by creating an avenue for customers to connect directly with technicians and or service representatives, and even look through Frequently Asked Questions that may help resolve issues. The MHTC technicians and service representatives have received comprehensive training and have been deemed the subject matter experts (SME's) for broadband and related home and business networks. Customers have several different avenues to access support which include viewing the web tools, calling a Customer Care Center number, or emailing the question or trouble.

3. Digital literacy or online security trainings or events.

MHTC will offer digital literacy and online security training via its Technical Support page and tools which offers a variety of access options providing additional flexibility for those seeking help as the product suite has options for customers that exist outside of traditional business hours.

4. Low-income broadband assistance program will be offered.

MHTC offers Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity discounts to qualifying subscribers as a means of offering assistance to low-income broadband subscribers. As additional consideration, MHTC did develop the pricing for tiers of service with the community in mind and has priced all qualifying broadband services in a manner comparable or lower than that of other broadband providers in the state.

4.5 Evaluation Criteria: This Application's Criteria Merit Points

a. Matching funds (10 points).

MHTC's application includes matching funds of 40% contributed in combination of MHTC and its public-private partners.

b. Public-private partnerships (10 points).

MHTC's application includes public-private partnerships between MHTC, County of Iowa and Town of Brigham.

c. Existing broadband service (15 points).

MHTC's application is proposing to serve an underserved area.

d. Project impact (15 points).

MHTC's application proposes to serve an extremely rural high-cost area and deliver broadband to 70 underserved locations. Additionally, an ancillary benefit of upgrading three existing fixed wireless towers are significantly improved internet speed and capacity to approximately 206 rural fixed wireless locations

e. Scalability (5 points).

MHTC's application demonstrates a commitment to increase the size or scope of its broadband network in the future and as part of this proposed project has incorporated spare fiber, ensured ease of future upgrades with the change of electronics and has sufficient bandwidth and facilities to increase capacity as a result of area growth and or expansion.

f. Economic development (10 points).

MHTC's application demonstrates the potential to promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region.

g. Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas (5 points).

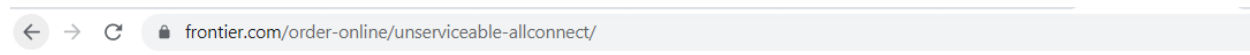
MHTC's application demonstrates that it will not impair the ability of a competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project shall receive priority.

MHTC Grant Application List of Appendix Documents

- A. Demonstration of Service Available
- B. Support Letters, Economic Development, Impact on Telehealth, Impact on Education, and general letters of support and surveys
- C. MHTC Letter of Interest from RTFC
- D. Public-Private Partnership with matching funds Resolution Iowa County
- E. Public-Private Partnership Agreement with matching funds Town of Brigham

Appendix-A: Demonstration of Service Available

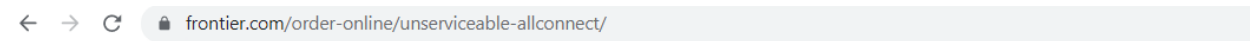
Thirty-six (36) of the residential locations that are depicted as served on the Wisconsin Broadband Map indicate “Frontier is not available” when researching each individual location. A few examples are summarized immediately below.



Frontier

Frontier is not available at this address

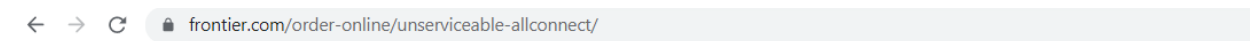
2624 County Road K , Barneveld, WI 53507 [Edit](#)



Frontier

Frontier is not available at this address

1875 County Road K, Hollandale, WI 53544 [Edit](#)



Frontier

Frontier is not available at this address

2221 Black Oak Rd, Hollandale, WI 53544 [Edit](#)

Given the difficult topology along the Cty Rd K South corridor, which includes dense tree coverage, hills and valleys, fixed wireless line-of-sight signal is greatly inhibited. This is shown in the signal propagation maps from MHTC’s equipment. The following pictures are examples of such maps with existing locations in the project area that are very difficult or impossible for fixed wireless options. The areas that lack green or red shading indicate no fixed wireless service is available and validates the comments expressed in letter of support 09—Meyers (3110 K, below).



Appendix-B: Support Letters, Economic Development, Impact on Telehealth, Impact on Education and general letters of support and surveys

Letter 01:

January 25, 2022

Re: Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Ms. Coker,

I am a resident of Iowa County, Wisconsin and live on Urness Road. I am sending this letter in support of the Broadband Expansion Grant application by Mt. Horeb Telephone Company-MHTC. We are in full support of this fiber broadband deployment to provide service to unserved and underserved areas of our county, such as the area which we live in.

Our current option for internet is wireless DSL through MHTC. They offer wireless speeds up to 100Mb, but we can only receive service of 10Mb at our home, even with a tower within a mile. While I understand that some homes are even more limited, but this is far slower than the 1000Mb that can be accessed in town- leaving rural internet users disadvantaged.

For 9 years I worked remotely from home for a large Madison based company as a part time Customer Service agent. Four years ago, they changed to a VoIP phone system. In spite of great efforts on the part of MHTC and our removal of trees, we were not able to get a consistent signal for me to continue to work from home. I had to rent office space in Barneveld, pay for additional internet service and commute to my "remote" job—all due to the lack of quality internet.

I also run our farm-based business. I sell wool and products from our 100 sheep through my website. To sell to fiber artists I use high quality photography of my products. It takes an enormous amount of time to add photos and maintain my website with the slow speed. Additionally, when I have a customer that requests more images, I am limited to sending small files. As video is becoming more and more important in social media and a company's web presence my business is unable to keep up. It is just not possible to provide video with our current speed. This is what I mean when I state that rural citizens (businesses) are at a disadvantage.

We had two family members trying to work from home during the pandemic. It was a constant issue to schedule who could use video conferencing and if it would work. With so many people working and schooling from home the divide between rural and city becomes even more clear.

I have been unable to use video appointments with my physician, we could only maintain a phone conversation due to the lack of video quality with the internet speed. There are classes that I would like to offer my fiber customers online, but am prevented from doing so with our internet. When my children visit, they go to the coffee shop to work because our internet cannot support additional users. These are all things that those who live in town and have true high-speed internet do not need to think about.

Please consider a grant to MHTC to bring fiber broadband service to our area. Having fast and reliable internet service in our area will allow us to compete as a business, and provide better options for work, education, and communication for the rural residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tami and Dan Bowser

7370 Urness Road

Hollandale WI 53544

Letter 02:

Dear Ms. Coker,

My wife Wendy and I are residents of Iowa County Wisconsin, and live at 1978 County Road K.

This letter is in support of the Broadband Expansion Grant application by Mt. Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC). We fully support this fiber broadband deployment to provide needed service to unserved areas in our county, like where we live.

The choices we have for high-speed internet are quite limited, and living at this location for 25 years, we have tried them all: POTS modem, satellite broadband, wireless, DSL. Right now we have Frontier DSL, which bills us \$135 monthly for internet and phone service. At best our download speeds are 3-4 Mbps, and upload speeds are a molasses-like 0.8 Mbps.

There are a number of problems with the DSL service aside from the dismal speeds. The DSL modem drops service 10 times a day (it quickly re-establishes connection, but will often interrupt long downloads or uploads). The modem speed is also impacted by other appliances in the house: dimmer controls on lighting, an exercise treadmill, the microwave.

During the pandemic, both my wife and I are working from home, trying to stay up-to-date with webinars, team meetings, E-mails, and trying to do our jobs remotely. I am an engineer, and doing 3D CAD work, or dealing with large data sets for analysis, has been a slow process at best, as our company keeps all data on our servers. My wife's work is hampered in similar ways with her tools for her job taking tens of seconds to complete small tasks, where the response is nearly instantaneous when she is in her office. I have recently taken on consulting work that I do remotely from home, putting a premium on having reliable, high-speed connectivity.

We routinely contact Frontier, as well as other internet providers that may be able to serve us to see if we can improve our internet service. Satellite service would go down whenever we had a rainstorm, wireless DSL can't reach our home (we live partway down in a valley). Cellular service is spotty and intermittent. Starlink is still in beta in our area, and the upfront cost for equipment (plus no guarantee internet speeds will be higher or more stable) keeps us from trying it out.

Please consider our residence as 'underserved' (or un-served, when I have re-started an upload for the fifth time). My wife and I (and I imagine everyone along the highway K corridor) with reliable high-speed internet will be able to be as productive and flexible as people living in large metropolitan areas are with their large number of providers to choose from.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Duane and Wendy Kaufman
1878 County Road K
Hollandale, WI 53544
(608) 967-2360
duanek@chorus.net
wendybl063@aol.com

Letter 03:

RE: Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Ms. Coker,

We are residents of Iowa County, Wisconsin and live on County Rd K. Within the last couple years, we moved near Hollandale to start and run a small vegetable production farm. We were hoping to be able to have reliable internet albeit slow however most of the time we are getting underserved in speed making it near impossible to run a business with an online presence, let alone get other remote job work for winter. We are sending this letter of support for the Broadband Expansion Grant application by Mt. Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC). We are in full support of this broadband deployment to provide service to unserved areas of our county as the one in which we live.

Our options for high-speed internet are limited and quite pitiful. Currently we use Frontier DSL, which costs us about \$130 per month for internet and landline telephone service. We currently pay for an advertised 10Mbps however the best download speeds we can get (with the best modem we can get) are about 3-4Mbps, and the best upload speeds are about 0.8 Mbps. This lack in access makes our shared planning and document development difficult as we cannot reliably have more than one device on. We also have been joining online conferences with fellow farms and universities and it is incredibly frustrating when we cut in and out or as in the case today, we just haven't had internet all morning and now are missing a full days learnings on being an employer of choice. We also recently had a break-in to our home and as a precaution we got motion video surveillance, however most of the videos are very delayed in upload due to poor upload speeds, rendering them closer to useless in real time.

Several times a year we investigate possible new options. Our home (like many others in our hilly area) is in a valley, and MHTC has been to our home and confirmed we don't have line-of-sight to towers which would allow us to use "wireless" DSL. We have investigated HughesNet, which doesn't work when it rains and has data throttles. Our cellular data coverage is limited in our valley, so using our phone as wi-fi hotspots isn't a practical option. We could try to be "beta testers" for a satellite service which would cost us \$500 up front for equipment, ~\$100/month, with no promise that our service would be much better than what we have with our current provider.

Please consider a grant to MHTC to bring fiber broadband service in our area. My husband and I are certainly not the only ones struggling with decent internet service in our area. Having reliable, fast internet will provide those of us living here with flexible work options and the ability to communicate with others efficiently.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Patty Grimmer & Ky Christenson
1671 County Rd K, Hollandale WI 53544
wonkasharvest@gmail.com

Letter 04:

Re: Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Ms. Coker,

I am a resident of Iowa County, Wisconsin and live on County Road K. I am sending this letter of support for the Broadband Expansion Grant application by Mt. Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC). We are in full support of this fiber broadband deployment to provide service to unserved areas of our county such as the one in which we live.

Our options for high-speed internet are limited and really quite pitiful. Currently we use MHTC wireless internet, which costs us about \$73 per month. The best download speeds we can get (with the best modem we can get) are about 3-4 Mbps, and the best upload speeds are about 1.5 Mbps. These speeds make it problematic for us in many ways. During the COVID-19 pandemic and even now today, I had been forced to work from home and my kids were forced to be schooled from home and participating in any meetings or classes were very difficult. There were times I was giving important work presentations when I lost connectivity or my kids were not able to communicate with their teachers. Uploading files or accessing documents from work are nearly impossible and are unproductive. Even necessary updates to our electronic devices (phones, laptops, work and school computers) are time consuming and sometimes time out and have to be restarted. Because our internet speeds are so slow, even turning on certain LED lights in our house, using our treadmill, or using the microwave creates enough interference to prevent the use of the internet in our house. Outside of work and school, streaming movies or television shows can be very unstable, with pauses, bumps and reduced resolution.

My wife is also a realtor and maintains her business from our house. The challenges with our internet consistently provide issues communicating with her clients via video calls and even voice calls while connected to the internet. She is forced to call back clients in the middle of a conversation and it looks like she is unprofessional.

Several times a year, we investigate possible new options. Our home (like many others in our hilly area) is located in a valley, and MHTC has been to our home and confirmed that we don't have line-of-sight to towers which would allow us to use "wireless" DSL. Our cellular data coverage is limited in our valley, so using our phones as wi-fi hotspots isn't a practical option. We could try to be "beta testers" for a satellite service which would cost us \$500 up front for equipment, about \$100/month with no promise that our service would be much better than what we have with our current provider.

Please consider a grant to MHTC to bring fiber broadband service in our area. My wife and I are certainly not the only ones struggling with decent internet service in our area. Having a reliable, fast internet will provide those of us living here with flexible work options, school options and the ability to communicate with others efficiently.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Craig Mortvedt
2370 County Road K, Barneveld, WI 53507
608-444-8807 / craigmortvedt@gmail.com

Letter 05:

Re: Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Ms. Coker,

I live on County Road K, in Iowa County, Wisconsin. I am writing this letter of support for the Broadband Expansion Grant application by Mt. Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC). We are in full support of this fiber broadband deployment to provide this critical service to underserved communities, such as my own.

We have been customers of MHTC since we built our home on County Road K. I pay over \$70 a month for less than 8mb down on a line-of-sight wireless connection. Although the service is consistent, it does not meet the needs of me or my family...and we are considered lucky to have it. Neighbors across the street suffer even worse speeds and inconsistent service from other providers because they have no line-of-sight connection to the MHTC towers. As a commercial editor, I regularly need to download and process files that can be upwards of 30 GB. It takes hours, sometimes an entire day. I have to plan in advance for every remote work day. My wife, Dr. Jill Underly (Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction) has to remote into conferences and interviews on almost a daily basis. Many times, she cannot use her webcam because of latency. In fact, she has had to drive into Madison to give remote interviews and appearances because our connection does not meet the minimum speed requirement. My two teenage children, as well as many other children who live along County Road K, could not and cannot not effectively remote into their classes. I do my best to regulate our bandwidth by disconnecting devices from our homes WiFi, but it only does so much.

MHTC has worked with me over the years to try and improve our speeds. New antennas, adjusting the antenna, resetting the antenna, etc. I bear them no animosity because, as I stated before, our connection is slow but consistent. Other providers have no available ports or seats and cannot accommodate us. Satellite services don't work because of weather interference. In short, our rural community has few options and is being left behind.

MHTC is a local Wisconsin company and remains committed to Iowa County. I look forward to seeing them grow as a company and I believe in brand loyalty (especially local brands). Please consider a grant to MHTC to bring fiber broadband service to our area. Having fast, reliable internet service will provide our families the opportunity to remain competitive in a digital world.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Underly", with a stylized, cursive script.

John K. Underly
1838 County Road K
Hollandale, WI 53544

MHTC Internet Survey

MHTC is Applying for funding from WI PSC Broadband Grant program. If awarded, this funding will allow MHTC to bring fiber to your location. If you are interested in receiving MHTC broadband service, please share your responses to the questions below.

Question	Answer
1. What communications services are you currently using? Select all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> Landline Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Video <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____
2. Approximately how much do you pay per month for each of the services that you use?	\$72 Internet \$ _____ Landline Phone \$ _____ Video \$ _____ Other (specify) _____
3. What is the broadband speed that you currently are receiving with your Internet service?	____ None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> < 10 Mbps downstream ____ 11-25 Mbps downstream ____ 26-50 Mbps downstream ____ 51-99 Mbps downstream ____ 100 Mbps downstream or above ____ I don't know
4. Please follow this link to perform a speed test, https://www.speedtest.net/	Results of speed test (Document speed down/up and latency) <i>Sunday 3:47 down / 2pm 2:54 up</i> <i>Monday 3:47 down / 10AM 1:53 up</i>
5. What broadband speed would you need to meet your business or personal needs?	____ 1-100 Mbps downstream ____ 101-300 Mbps downstream <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 301-500 Mbps downstream ____ 501 Mbps downstream & above ____ I'm not sure
6. Are you interested in receiving broadband service from MHTC?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. How would you like us to let you know when service will be available?	<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call <input type="checkbox"/> Mailer
Contact Information Name: Address: Phone number: Email:	<i>John Underly</i> <i>1838 County Road K.</i> <i>Holtville, WI 53544</i> <i>608-586-2335</i> <i>john.underly@gmail.com</i>

*This form does not commit you to receive any services from MHTC

Letter 06:

Re: Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Ms. Coker,

I am writing this letter of support for the Broadband Expansion Grant application by Mt. Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC). My family and I are in full support of this fiber broadband deployment to provide this critical service to underserved communities, such as our own.

I'm writing this letter to you as the spouse of an employee dependent upon quality internet connections, a state elected official, and a parent of children who need access to online learning. My family and I reside on County Trunk K, which connects Barneveld and US 151 to Hollandale, Wisconsin. It's become an artery that connects the business routes of the very western parts of the Madison Metro-Area and Iowa County with southwestern Wisconsin communities. Just on our stretch of highway, we have numerous small business owners and many children. In my own home, my husband works from home on some of the same days that I do, and our children are sometimes home as well attempting to complete their schooling virtually. Sometimes all of us need the internet at the same time, and that causes problems for us to complete our work and be competitive in the quality of our services.

To give you a sampling of my neighborhood, we live in between three small business owners. All of us use MHTC as our provider because it is the best and most responsive provider for our needs. For example, our neighbor to the north has numerous engineering patents and his spouse is a science journal writer. They work from their home. Our neighbors to the south own an international business in agricultural feeds, seeds, and grain. They work in Hollandale. Our neighbors across the road own one of the largest midwest regional directional drilling companies, and they are forced to commute to Lafayette County because their home does not have reliable high speed internet access unless it's through their phone data. Long and short, our local economy suffers because we cannot stay competitive with internet speeds. There are days that I, a statewide elected official, cannot complete my duties remotely and I must travel to Madison and work from the office building. We cannot sustain this way of work if we cannot have competitive internet speeds.

I have always thought that high speed internet should be a right and managed as a utility, just as running water or electricity is necessary for modern living and work. Our children, which our community is full of, must have access to the highest quality technology if they are to become competitive workers and innovators in our state's economy. If they don't have access to this technology, our community and our state will fall behind. We are committed to working with MHTC to bring our community into the 21st century so that it can be competitive with the growing economy all around us. It's imperative for us, but it is also imperative for our children's future as well.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jill Underly".

Jill Underly
1838 County Road K. Hollandale WI

Letter 07:

Dear Ms. Steffany Powel Coker,

I am a resident of Iowa County, WI, and I live on County Road K. I am sending this email in support of the Broadband Expansion Grant application by Mount Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC). If we were to get fiber service here, it would mean so much to our family and the other residents of this underserved area.

Ironically, I tried for over a half hour to test our connection speed, but I had trouble connecting. Once I was finally able to test it, we had about 18 mbps download speed, and 4 mbps upload speed. At work, (in either Mount Horeb or Platteville), we typically get around 300 mbps or more.

During the pandemic, my company purchased a laptop for me so that I could work from home, but after 1 week of struggling at home, I had to go back to working at the office. I couldn't get anything done. The internet was always cutting out, and even if I did have a connection, it was terribly slow. That week I had scheduled several zoom interviews, and each of them devolved into phone interviews because the video and audio feed kept freezing up.

I'm very grateful that my children are young enough that they didn't have to do online learning these past 2 years. They would not have been able to do it at home.

And finally, when it comes to personal internet use, it's very common for our TV programs to become blurry or pixelated. And some nights we can't stream anything.

Please consider granting funds to MHTC to bring fiber service to our area. In this day and age, having good internet is a necessity. And we need this service so that our community doesn't fall behind.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Estée Kitelinger
2518 County Rd K
Barneveld, WI 53507
(608) 778-1274
esteekitelinger@gmail.com

Letter 08:

Re: Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Ms. Coker,

I am a resident of Iowa County, Wisconsin and live at 2510 County Road K Barneveld in the Brigham Township. I am sending this letter in support of the Broadband Expansion Grant application by Mt. Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC). We are in full support of the fiber broadband deployment to provide service to the unserved areas of Iowa county, particularly along the very underserved county roads such as County Road K between Barneveld and Hollandale. The options for high-speed internet are extremely limited where my family and I live. Currently we use Excede Satellite service which costs \$170.00 per month for internet service. Although I was promised up to 30 Mbps download speeds, I only get just under 10 Mbps download speeds on a good day and have gotten as little as 0.15 Mbps – yes, that was less than 1 Mbps download speed. I average 5 to 7 Mbps download speed and 1.5 Mbps upload. Additionally, I have a data cap that I flirt with exceeding monthly, although I do not see how the internet service provider can throttle my already anemic service any further. I work from home for a large software company and have team members spread across the globe whereby we routinely communicate using Microsoft Teams. Using the video capability inherent in Teams is challenging, my video feed is too fuzzy for my team to see me which forces me to use my phone as a wireless hot spot. This too causes challenges with data limits imposed by the wireless phone provider; video sucks up a lot of data. When I have important presentations to complete to clients and potential customers, I must drive into Madison to a friend's house and borrow his internet feed to ensure I have a stable enough feed to support audio and video. Presentations to clients and potential customers can last up to four hours thus rendering my current internet and phone hot spot inadequate to meet the challenge. In addition, when I am working, no one else in the household can be on the internet at the same time since I do not have the bandwidth to support multiple devices. Video streaming was a luxury we once enjoyed freely, now we can only have one device streaming video at any given time due to the bandwidth issues and not when I am working. I have investigated other options for internet service. My house is surrounded by trees and hills not allowing line of sight for DSL, my current provider cannot increase my bandwidth, as stated in their literature, they provide up to 30 Mbps download with no guarantee of reaching that speed. I have also researched SkyNet service but as it turns out that is not an option due to the number of trees to the north of my property that would need to be removed as well as several trees on my neighbor's property that will interfere with reception from low earth orbit satellites. I was encouraged that relief was on the way when I saw fiber being laid along the state roads around the local communities but was disheartened when I found out that majority of the county roads were not part of the current expansion. Please consider a grant to MHTC to bring fiber broadband service in our area. Having reliable high-speed internet service will provide those of us living here greater quality of life and enable us the flexibility to support work, school, and social activities from home without having to expose us to unnecessary risk whether it is poor winter road conditions of the next COVID-19 variant.

Sincerely,

Allan Nelson
2510 County Road K
Barneveld WI, 53507
allan.w.nelson@outlook.com

Letter 09:

Re: Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Ms. Coker,

As a resident in Iowa County, Wisconsin I am sending this letter of support for the Broadband Expansion Grant application by MHTC (Mt. Horeb Telephone Company). I am in full support of this fiber broadband deployment to provide service to some of the unserved areas of our county.

Connectivity to the internet at a speed that will not only support us today, but well into the future will be delivered by this project. My internet connection provides me access to home entertainment, access to news paper and other news information, and for my phone service through my cell phone. My current download speeds are around 2.5Mbps and I have buffering occurring on a regular basis.

To award a grant to MHTC will be a definite benefit for my area in the Town of Brigham. To bring fiber broadband service to our household will not only provide myself, but bringing fiber broadband in the area will also provide benefits my neighbors and their families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Zander", written in a cursive style.

Jerry Zander
3543 County Road K
Barneveld, WI 53507

Letter 10:

Re: Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Ms. Coker,

I am a resident of Iowa County, Wisconsin and live on County Road K. I am sending this letter of support for the Broadband Expansion Grant Application by Mt. Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC). We are in full support of this fiber broadband deployment to provide service to unserved areas of our county such as the one in which we live.

Our options for high-speed internet are limited and really quite pitiful. Currently we use ATT, which costs us about \$120 per month for internet. The best download speeds we can get are about 4-5 Mbps and the best upload speeds are about 4 Mbps. These speeds make it problematic for us in many ways. During the Covid-19 pandemic, zoom calls for meetings were a necessity. These can be spotty and cause misses in conversation. Streaming movies or television shows can be very unstable, with pauses, bumps and reduced resolution, with numerous buffering incidents.

We are constantly searching for new options. Our home is located in a valley, and MHTC has been to our home several times and confirmed that we don't have line-of-sight to towers which would allow us to use "wireless" DSL. We have tried Hughes Net and that was a disaster. Using our phones as wi-fi hotspots isn't a practical option due to cost and slow speeds.

Please consider a grant to MHTC to bring fiber broadband service in our area. My husband and I are not the only ones struggling with decent internet service in our area. We know our son and family at a neighboring farm have even worse service than we do, located low in the valley with hills all around. Having reliable, fast internet will provide those of us living here with flexible work options and the ability to communicate with others efficiently.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nancy J Meyers

3110 County Road K

Barneveld, WI

608-924-4746

jnmeyers@live.com

Letter 11:



February 17, 2022

Steffany Powell Coker
Secretary to the Commission
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
North Tower- 6th Floor
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-9100

Re: Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Ms. Coker,

As the President of Upland Hills Health in Iowa County, Wisconsin, I am sending this letter of support for the Broadband Expansion Grant application by MHTC (Mt. Horeb Telephone Company). We are in full support of this fiber broadband deployment to provide service to some of the unserved areas of our county.

Adequate broadband is essential in ensuring that our patients have access to telehealth appointments. Currently, many of our rural residents do not have sufficient bandwidth for such visits. Additionally, the hospital owns a clinic in Barneveld, Wisconsin. Currently, we do not have sufficient bandwidth for a back-up internet connection for disaster recovery for the medical records of this clinic. Lastly, at this time, we do not have sufficient bandwidth to stream internet health information programs in our waiting rooms.

We urge you to consider providing this grant to MHTC to bring fiber broadband service to our area. Having fast and reliable internet service in our area will allow us to address these needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Schnedler".

Lisa Schnedler, FACHE
President & CEO
Upland Hills Health, Inc.
schnedlerl@uplandhillshealth.org

Letter 12:

Dear Ms. Coker,

I am a resident of Iowa County, Wisconsin and live on County Rd K. I am sending this letter of support for the Broadband Expansion Grant Application by Mt. Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC). We are in full support of this fiber broadband deployment to provide service to unserved area of out county such as the one in which we live.

Our options for high-speed internet are limited and really quite pitiful. Currently we use Frontier DSL, which cost us about \$60.00 per month for internet service. The best download speeds we can get (with the best modem we can get) are about 14mbs, and the best upload speeds are 1.31mbs. These speeds make it problematic for us in many ways. During the Covid-19 pandemic, I had been forced to work from home, and participating in video conferences, along with phone calls is difficult. There were times my wife was on an important phone call through work and with the spotty internet, her calls were dropped as she has to use the internet for phone. Also, with my business, it make it very difficult for me to communicate with potential customers with the lack of internet service. loading large electronic files or accessing large documents or simply installing necessary software updates is increasingly slow and sometimes impossible. Because out internet speeds are so slow, even turning on Certain LED lights in our house, using our treadmill, or using the microwave create enough interference to prevent the use of the internet in our house. Outside of work, steaming movies or television shows can be very unstable, pauses, bumps, and reduced resolution. This also goes with kids having to do virtual school as well, it make is very difficult for them to join classes virtually with the slow internet. Also with the lack of service frontier providers, it can be several days that we could be with out internet before it is resolved and working again. We have gone multiple days without service and had to find different working options when trying to run a business along with my wife working from home, have to find another location to work from that has privacy as she needs it for the job she has.

Several time a year, we investigate possible new options. Out house (like many others in our hilly area) is located in a valley, and MHTC has been to our home and confirmed that we don't have line of sight to towers which would allow us to use "wireless" DSL. Our cellular data coverage is limited in our valley, so using our phones as wi-fi hotspots isn't a practical option. We could try to be "beta testers" for a satellite service which would cost us \$500 up front for equipment, \$100 a month with no promise that our service would be much better than what we have with our current provider. When we called Frontier and talked to them about better options, the Lady (Stephnai), stated that we are at our max speed already, which is 12Mbps down and 1Mbps up. She also stated that they are trying to switch everyone over to fiber, but didn't have a timeframe so it makes it hard to believe that they would be able to do this anytime soon. MHTC has reible service, as we have bed it in the past when we lived in a different location, and would be very helpful with the many different aspects we need the internet for.

Please consider a grant to MHTC to bring fiber in our area. My wife and I are certainly not the only ones struggling with decent internet service in our area. Having reliable, fast internet will provide those of us living here with flexible work options and the ability to communicate with others efficiently.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robby Schlimgen

3833 County Rd K, Barneveld WI, 53507

(608)574-3409

Schlimgenra@gmail.com

MHTC Internet Survey

MHTC is Applying for funding from WI PSC Broadband Grant program. If awarded, this funding will allow MHTC to bring fiber to your location. If you are interested in receiving MHTC broadband service, please share your responses to the questions below.

Question	Answer
1. What communications services are you currently using? Select all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> Landline Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Video <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____
2. Approximately how much do you pay per month for each of the services that you use?	\$45 Internet \$ _____ Landline Phone \$ _____ Video \$ _____ Other (specify) _____
3. What is the broadband speed that you currently are receiving with your Internet service?	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> < 10 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 11-25 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 26-50 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 51-99 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Mbps downstream or above <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
4. Please follow this link to perform a speed test, https://www.speedtest.net/	Results of speed test (Document speed down/up and latency) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div>download upload</div> <div>download upload</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div>2.37 .4</div> <div>1.1 1.2</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div>2.1 1.1</div> <div></div> </div>
5. What broadband speed would you need to meet your business or personal needs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-100 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 101-300 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 301-500 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 501 Mbps downstream & above <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure
6. Are you interested in receiving broadband service from MHTC?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. How would you like us to let you know when service will be available?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call <input type="checkbox"/> Mailer
Contact Information Name: Lance Hook Address: 2241 County Rd K Barneveld Phone number: 608-225-0902 Email: mymechllc@gmail.com	

*This form does not commit you to receive any services from MHTC

MHTC Internet Survey

MHTC is Applying for funding from WI PSC Broadband Grant program. If awarded, this funding will allow MHTC to bring fiber to your location. If you are interested in receiving MHTC broadband service, please share your responses to the questions below.

Question	Answer
1. What communications services are you currently using? Select all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landline Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Video <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____
2. Approximately how much do you pay per month for each of the services that you use?	\$ <u>42.99</u> Internet \$ <u>110</u> Landline Phone \$ _____ Video \$ _____ Other (specify) _____
3. What is the broadband speed that you currently are receiving with your Internet service?	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> < 10 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 11-25 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 26-50 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 51-99 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Mbps downstream or above <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know
4. Please follow this link to perform a speed test, https://www.speedtest.net/	Results of speed test (Document speed down/up and latency) <i>Down Load 3.4 Mbps upload 1.7 mpps</i>
5. What broadband speed would you need to meet your business or personal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-100 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 101-300 Mbps downstream <input type="checkbox"/> 301-500 Mbps downstream <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501 Mbps downstream & above <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure
6. Are you interested in receiving broadband service from MHTC?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. How would you like us to let you know when service will be available?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone Call <i>608-574-5303</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Mailer
Contact Information Name: <i>Charles Schriber</i> Address: <i>1875 County Road K</i> Phone number: <i>608-767-2510</i> Email: <i>C.Schriber@Mhtc.net</i>	

*This form does not commit you to receive any services from MHTC

MHTC Internet Survey

MHTC is Applying for funding from WI PSC Broadband Grant program. If awarded, this funding will allow MHTC to bring fiber to your location. If you are interested in receiving MHTC broadband service, please share your responses to the questions below.

Question	Answer
1. What communications services are you currently using? Select all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landline Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Video <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <u>DISH</u>
2. Approximately how much do you pay per month for each of the services that you use?	\$ <u>50</u> Internet \$ <u>50</u> Landline Phone \$ ____ Video \$ <u>135</u> Other (specify) <u>DISH</u>
3. What is the broadband speed that you currently are receiving with your Internet service?	____ None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> < 10 Mbps downstream 4.0 MB ____ 11-25 Mbps downstream ____ 26-50 Mbps downstream ____ 51-99 Mbps downstream ____ 100 Mbps downstream or above ____ I don't know
4. Please follow this link to perform a speed test, https://www.speedtest.net/	Results of speed test (Document speed down/up and latency) PING ms Download Mbps Upload Mbps <u>31</u> <u>3.82</u> <u>1.53</u> <u>47</u> <u>3.80</u> <u>1.64</u>
5. What broadband speed would you need to meet your business or personal needs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-100 Mbps downstream ____ 101-300 Mbps downstream ____ 301-500 Mbps downstream ____ 501 Mbps downstream & above ____ I'm not sure
6. Are you interested in receiving broadband service from MHTC?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. How would you like us to let you know when service will be available?	<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailer
Contact Information Name: <u>Ilene Krauss</u> Address: <u>1526 County Road K</u> Phone number: <u>608-967-9306</u> Email: <u>ikrauss@mhtc.net</u>	

*This form does not commit you to receive any services from MHTC

MHTC Internet Survey

MHTC is Applying for funding from WI PSC Broadband Grant program. If awarded, this funding will allow MHTC to bring fiber to your location. If you are interested in receiving MHTC broadband service, please share your responses to the questions below.

Question	Answer
1. What communications services are you currently using? Select all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> Landline Phone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Video <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <u>VOIP</u>
2. Approximately how much do you pay per month for each of the services that you use?	\$ <u>170</u> Internet \$ _____ Landline Phone \$ <u>40</u> Video \$ <u>50</u> Other (specify) <u>VOIP</u>
3. What is the broadband speed that you currently are receiving with your Internet service?	_____ None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> < 10 Mbps downstream _____ 11-25 Mbps downstream _____ 26-50 Mbps downstream _____ 51-99 Mbps downstream _____ 100 Mbps downstream or above _____ I don't know
4. Please follow this link to perform a speed test, https://www.speedtest.net/	Results of speed test (Document speed down/up and latency) <u>as low as 0.19 Downward & 0.25 upward</u> <u>as fast as 10.0 Downward & 1.00 upward</u> <u>Average 7 Mbps Downward & 1.00 upward</u>
5. What broadband speed would you need to meet your business or personal needs?	_____ 1-100 Mbps downstream <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 101-300 Mbps downstream _____ 301-500 Mbps downstream _____ 501 Mbps downstream & above _____ I'm not sure
6. Are you interested in receiving broadband service from MHTC?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. How would you like us to let you know when service will be available?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call <input type="checkbox"/> Mailer
Contact Information Name: <u>Dennis Nelson</u> Address: <u>2510 County Road K Bannock</u> Phone number: <u>608-319-6119</u> Email: <u>dennis.w.nelson@outlook.com</u>	<u>I'm Desperate for decent Broadband. I have</u> <u>Satellite service as the service is very unreliable</u> <u>to be. Supposed to get 30 Mbps download speed but lucky</u> <u>to get 10 on a good day</u>

*This form does not commit you to receive any services from MHTC

Appendix-C: MHTC Letter of Interest from RTFC



**Rural Telephone
Finance Cooperative**

2070 Cooperative Way
Dulles, Virginia 20166
703-457-1850 | www.rtfco.coop

March 2, 2022

Mr. John Van Ooyen
CEO/General Manager
Mount Horeb Telephone Company
P.O. Box 65
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Re: Expression of Interest in Potential Financing

Dear Mr. Ooyen:

This letter is provided to your organization by Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative ("RTFC") as an expression of its interest in providing a financing package totaling \$3,000,000 million for the purpose of interim financing.

RTFC is a private, non-profit financing cooperative organized to arrange and secure financing for its members and patrons for the planning, initiation and execution of their programs, projects and undertakings.

This letter is not a final loan commitment, but is merely intended as a basis for continuing discussions between the parties. Issuance of a final loan commitment is conditioned upon RTFC completing the necessary due diligence and obtaining certain internal approvals.

If a final loan commitment is issued, closing will be conditioned upon execution of usual and customary loan documents containing terms, conditions, covenants, representations, conveyances of collateral and legal opinions acceptable to RTFC and its attorneys. Nothing set forth herein, nor does any statement or representation made by any employee of RTFC obligate RTFC to approve, commit to, or close any loan or extension of credit.

Neither your organization nor any third party should rely on this letter as evidence that a loan commitment will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (703) 624-1209.
Sincerely,

Alex Knapp
Associate Vice President and Account Manager

D8.FRW.v1

RESOLUTION NO. 7-322

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO FACILITATE
THE DEPLOYMENT OF AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, HIGH-SPEED INTERNET
SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband services, including for residential, commercial, and governmental use, provides enhanced educational possibilities, furthers workforce development opportunities, and stimulates economic development within the County; and

WHEREAS, the County's residents increasingly depend on their ability to access affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband services to improve their economic and financial position, to enhance their social networking capabilities, and to meet their basic consumer needs; and

WHEREAS, the County's businesses rely on their ability to access affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband services to effectively compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, the County's ability to timely deliver cost-effective governmental services to its residents, including emergency medical services and law enforcement protection, is enhanced by its ability to access affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband; and

WHEREAS, the County, along with its residents and businesses, desire expanded access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband services to effectively deliver basic services to its residents, to more fully engage in commerce, and to better compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, the County's topography and population density has made it cost-prohibitive for private sector development of a reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband network throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, as a result, many areas of the County have limited or no access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband services; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the provision of reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband services to residents and businesses throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the County believes that cooperation with private-sector partners is necessary for the development of a county-wide broadband network that meets the needs of the County, its residents, and its businesses; and

WHEREAS, MH Telecom, LLC, doing business as MHTC, is an ISP with experience providing reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband services to underserved and unserved communities throughout Wisconsin for commercial, governmental, and emergency response purposes; and

WHEREAS, MHTC is able to and desires to assist the County with the development of a plan to facilitate the deployment of reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband services throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the County believes that the economic activity and public benefits likely to occur as a result of the development and deployment of a reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband network throughout the County constitutes a valid public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to work together for the mutual benefit of the County's residents, businesses, government, and emergency responders by jointly developing a plan to facilitate the provision of reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband services throughout the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors authorizes and directs the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, or his designee, to enter into a Public-Private Partnership agreement, in accordance with Iowa County Policy 309, by executing a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"), attached as **Exhibit A**, with MHTC expressing the Parties' desire and intent to develop a plan to construct, develop, and deploy high-speed internet infrastructure to facilitate the provision of affordable, reliable, high-speed internet services throughout the County.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors authorizes and directs staff to immediately enter into negotiations with MHTC to develop a comprehensive plan, including all necessary agreements and other documentation, setting forth all relevant aspects necessary for the parties to jointly, or in partnership, construct, develop, and deploy high-speed internet infrastructure throughout the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors authorizes and directs staff to immediately take steps to develop and prepare not later than March 17, 2022, a complete Broadband Expansion Grant Application, or similar grant application, as appropriate, including all necessary agreements and other documentation, in partnership with MHTC, for anticipated joint submission to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin not later than March 17, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all plans, applications, and Agreements referenced herein shall not become effective unless and until each has received approval by the Board of Supervisors in accordance with Iowa County's General Code of Ordinances and/or as otherwise required by law.

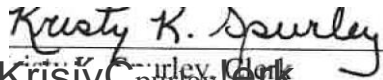
Respectfully submitted by the Executive Committee.

Adopted by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors this 5th day of July, 2022.



John M. Meyers, Chairman
Iowa County Board of Supervisors

Attest:



Kristy K. Spurley, Clerk
Iowa County

EXHIBIT A

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN IOWA COUNTY, WISCONSIN AND MHTC ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC- PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO FACILITATE THE DEPLOYMENT OF AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, HIGH-SPEED INTERNET THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU") is made and entered into this 15th day of March, 2022, by and between IOWA COUNTY, WISCONSIN (the "County"), a political subdivision of the State of Wisconsin with its principal office located at 222 North Iowa Street, Dodgeville, Wisconsin, 53533; and MH Telecom, LLC, doing business as MHTC, a Wisconsin corporation certified by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin as an Alternative Telecommunications Utility to provide telecommunications service in Wisconsin with its principal office located at 305 North Iowa Street, Dodgeville, Wisconsin, 53533 (collectively, the "Parties").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the County, a certified Broadband Forward! Community, seeks to promote the development of affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband service within its boundaries for the public purpose of supporting its residents' desired quality of life and its businesses' need to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, the County believes that the economic activity and public benefits likely to be generated by studying, analyzing, developing, and, ultimately, providing reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband services throughout the County constitutes a valid public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the County has areas that are underserved or unserved by affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband service; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to expand its residents' and businesses' access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband service; and

WHEREAS, the County has requested to partner with MHTC, in accordance with Iowa County Policy 309, to establish a Public-Private Partnership agreement to produce and implement a plan that will result in the development and deployment of affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband service throughout the County (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, MHTC is an ISP with experience providing reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband access to underserved and unserved communities throughout Wisconsin for commercial, governmental, and emergency response purposes; and

WHEREAS, the parties intend that the County, with MHTC as its private-sector partner, may develop and submit, not later than March 17, 2022, a complete Broadband Expansion Grant Application, or similar application, to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (the "PSC") in furtherance of the expansion of broadband service throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to enter into negotiations with MHTC to develop and implement a plan to provide affordable, high-speed broadband service throughout the County (the "Broadband Expansion Plan"), subject only to those limitations under the County's ordinances and Wisconsin and federal law; and

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge that this MOU is merely a representation of the Parties' desire to develop, construct and provide broadband services throughout the County and does not constitute an authorization, express or otherwise, for the County to construct, own, or operate any facility for providing video service, telecommunications service, or broadband service, directly or indirectly, to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge that the terms of this MOU may be subject to modification in order to assure compliance with the County's ordinances, state regulatory agencies' guidance and rules, and Wisconsin and federal law.

The Parties to this MOU acknowledge the foregoing recitals and agree to participate in and perform the following actions:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- I. Preliminary Agreement. This MOU is a preliminary agreement between the Parties and, unless expressly stated otherwise, is not intended to create a binding agreement to finance, provide, maintain, develop, construct, or otherwise obligate the Parties to build or operate a broadband network within the County.
- II. Parties' Support for the Project. Notwithstanding any law, rule, guidance, ordinance, or conflicting provision contained herein, the Parties do hereby express support for the provisions contained within this MOU. The Parties acknowledge that the Project may not materialize despite their best efforts.
- III. Good Faith Negotiations. The Parties agree to identify and pursue all reasonable alternatives to effect the intent of this MOU and, where possible, take affirmative steps to implement those alternatives. The Parties further agree to voluntarily comply with the provisions of this MOU and, upon approval of the Broadband Expansion Plan by both Parties' respective governing bodies, negotiate in good faith to finalize and adopt a Final Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement that is separate and distinct from this MOU and which authorizes the Parties to construct and operate an affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband network throughout the County.
- IV. Preliminary Costs. The Parties agree that unless otherwise expressly agreed to in writing, each Party will be responsible for its own expenses incurred in furtherance of this MOU.
- V. Public Purpose. The Parties acknowledge that the expansion of broadband service throughout the County will provide a public benefit to the County, its residents, and its businesses. Accordingly, the Parties agree to cooperate with one another, and diligently undertake all reasonable actions and execute all reasonable efforts to secure funding to advance the Project.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

- VI. Preliminary Preparations. The Parties shall make all reasonable efforts to independently and collaboratively engage all stakeholders necessary to study, analyze, and execute the provisions of this MOU, including, but not limited to, the PSC, industry stakeholders, telecommunications providers, financial advisors, legal counsel, and other professionals, as necessary to realize the Project.
- VII. Broadband Expansion Grant Application. The Parties agree to work collaboratively to jointly prepare a complete Broadband Expansion Grant Application, or similar application, with the intent to submit the completed Broadband Expansion Grant Application (the "Application") to the PSC no later than March 17, 2022.
- VIII. Preliminary Broadband Expansion Plan. The Parties shall make all reasonable efforts to develop a Preliminary Broadband Expansion Plan, the purpose of which shall be to describe, locate, develop, and deploy reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband service throughout the County. The Parties agree to work together to jointly develop the Preliminary Broadband Expansion Plan and the complete Application.
- IX. Preliminary Broadband Expansion Plan approval. After developing the Preliminary Broadband Expansion Plan and complete Application, the Parties shall submit the Preliminary Broadband Expansion Plan and complete Application to their respective governing bodies for consideration and approval.
- X. Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement. Should both Parties' respective governing bodies approve the Preliminary Broadband Expansion Plan and complete Application, the Parties shall submit the complete Application to the PSC. Should the PSC award the Parties' the requested grant amount, the Parties shall use reasonable efforts to negotiate the specific terms of the Preliminary Broadband Expansion Plan in a Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement. Development, approval, and execution of the Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement shall be separate and distinct from this MOU and shall be subject to and conditioned upon successful negotiations between the Parties and approval by both Parties' respective governing bodies.
- XI. Costs. Parties acknowledge that all costs borne by the Parties in executing this MOU shall be the sole liability of the Party that incurred the costs, unless otherwise agreed to in writing.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- XII. Duration and Termination. The Parties are entitled to terminate this MOU immediately upon written notice to the other Party. Unless one or both Parties, or a court of law, terminates or invalidates this MOU, this MOU shall remain in full force and effect until the Parties' obligations described hereunder are completed.

- XIII. Non-Binding Effect. The Parties acknowledge that unless expressly stated otherwise, this MOU is not a binding agreement, and the obligations and rights of the Parties are yet to be negotiated and memorialized through the adoption of the Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement. The Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement shall not become effective unless and until it is approved by both Parties' respective governing bodies.
- XIV. Disclaimer. The Parties acknowledge that this MOU does not obligate either Party to provide, construct, finance, or develop a broadband network within the County or to execute a Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement. The Parties further acknowledge that the provisions of this MOU shall not be relied upon nor construed as an inducement for either party to take any action(s) or incur any costs not explicitly set forth by this MOU.
- XV. Representations and Warrantie . The Parties acknowledge that this MOU does not create a financial obligation between the Parties. The Parties further acknowledge that this MOU does not guarantee completion of the Broadband Expansion Plan or execution of a Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement. Nor does this MOU represent a financing guarantee between a potential lender and a potential buyer. Any financing terms referenced in this MOU shall become effective only upon the development and ratification of the Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement by both Parties' respective governing bodies. The Parties acknowledge that the Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement is separate and distinct from this MOU.
- XVI. Confidentiality. Because of the competitive nature of the broadband industry, the County acknowledges that certain information MHTC provides to the County may be proprietary and, if specified as such, should be treated by the County as confidential and shall not be disclosed to third parties unless required by law.
- XVII. Amendments. This MOU may not be amended or modified, except in writing, by mutual agreement of the Parties.
- XVIII. Governing Law. This MOU is intended to be performed in the State of Wisconsin and shall be construed and enforced by the laws of the State of Wisconsin.
- XIX. Counterpart. This MOU may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be an original, and all of which together shall be one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused the execution of this MOU by the authority of their respective governing bodies and/or authorized signatory as an expression of the Parties' formal intent.

[Signature pages follow]

IOWA COUNTY

The undersigned Iowa County officials have executed this Agreement pursuant to duly adopted Resolution No. 7-322 dated: March 15, 2022.

John M. Meyers
John M. Meyers, Chairman
Iowa County Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Kristy K. Spurley
Kristy K. Spurley, County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
COUNTY OF IOWA)

Personally came before me on March 15, 2022, the above named
JOHN M. MEYERS AND KRISTY K. SPURLEY, to me known to be the persons who
executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledge same.

DAVID C. MORZENT
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My Commission expires: PERMANENT




MHTC


Authorized Signatory

3-16-2022
Date

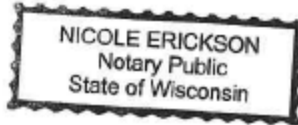
Attest:


Notary Public

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
COUNTY OF DANE)

Personally came before me on March 16, 2022, the above named
John Van Doyen, to me known to be the persons who executed the
foregoing instrument and acknowledge same.


Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My Commission expires: 1/21/2023



**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
WISCONSIN BROADBAND GRANT APPLICATIONS AND MATCHING FUNDS
COMMITMENT FOR BROADBAND PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors has declared that the economic activity and public benefits likely to occur as a result of the development and deployment of a reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband network throughout Iowa County constitutes a valid public purpose; and

WHEREAS, Iowa County, a certified Broadband Forward! Community, seeks to promote the development of high-speed broadband services to unserved and underserved areas within its boundaries and believes that cooperation with private-sector partners is necessary for the development of a county-wide broadband network that meets the needs of the County, its residents, and its businesses; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2022, Iowa County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with MH Telecom, LLC, doing business as MHTC, establishing a public-private partnership ("PPP") to facilitate the deployment of affordable, reliable, high-speed internet service throughout Iowa County ("MOU"); and

WHEREAS, attached as Exhibit A is the Preliminary Broadband Expansion Plan, which includes Grant Applications for three separate projects ("Grant Application Projects 1, 2, and 3") that MHTC and Iowa County staff have developed to further Iowa County's goal of improving broadband access throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Applications require that PPP partners make a commitment of matching funds for their proposed broadband projects; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the MOU and in furtherance of the Grant Application Projects, MHTC, with Iowa County as its public partner, have been preparing grant applications to submit to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin ("PSCW"); and

WHEREAS, MHTC estimates that portion of Project 1 geographically located in Iowa County will cost \$7,972,400.00 ("Estimated Project Cost"). MHTC intends to request 75% of the Estimated Project Cost in its application to the Grant Program for Project 1. MHTC estimates that the Estimated Project Cost for Project 2 will be \$1,220,810.00. MHTC intends to request 60% of the Estimated Project Cost in its application to the Grant Program for Project 2. MHTC estimates that the Estimated Project Cost for Project 3 will be \$260,132.62. MHTC intends to request 50% of the Estimated Project Cost in its application to the Grant Program for Project 3. MHTC will fund, or obtain funding through partners, consumers, and matching funding, for the remaining funding for each project not covered by the Grant Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors that Iowa County's commitment of matching funds to support the Grant Applications shall be realized as follows:

1. In the Grant Applications, Iowa County's share of the matching contribution will be in an amount not to exceed the following for the County:
 - a. Grant Application Project 1, if the project is awarded by the PSCW, Iowa County agrees to fund \$597,930.00 towards the portion of the project geographically located within Iowa County;
 - b. Grant Application Project 2, if the project is awarded by the PSCW, Iowa County agrees to fund \$146,497.00; and
 - c. Grant Application Project 3, if the project is awarded by the PSCW, Iowa County agrees to fund \$38,117.00.
2. Iowa County shall pay to MHTC the amount described above within 30 days of all the following conditions being met:
 - a. MHTC is awarded a grant for the Projects from the PSCW Grant Program;
 - b. MHTC completes construction of the Projects by the end of the 2025 calendar year; and
 - c. MHTC provides to the County a statement from a person authorized by MHTC to do so that the each Project, as installed, has been successfully tested, that the Project is capable of providing speeds of up to 1 gigabyte, and the Project is available to offer service to any and all locations in the Project area.
3. Iowa County and MHTC both agree to provide and share with each other, on a timely basis, the necessary reporting information required to justify and use, or be reimbursed by, the PSCW grant funding or any other funding source.
4. Additional terms and conditions between the parties will be included in a separate Broadband Expansion Plan Agreement, to be developed and executed after the successful awarding of the PSCW grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa County Administrator is hereby authorized to review, modify, and approve any further Grant Application revisions necessary to complete the Grant Applications so that they may be timely filed with the PSCW.

Respectfully submitted by the Executive Committee.

Adopted by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of March, 2022.



John M. Meyers, Chairman
Iowa County Board of Supervisors

Attest:


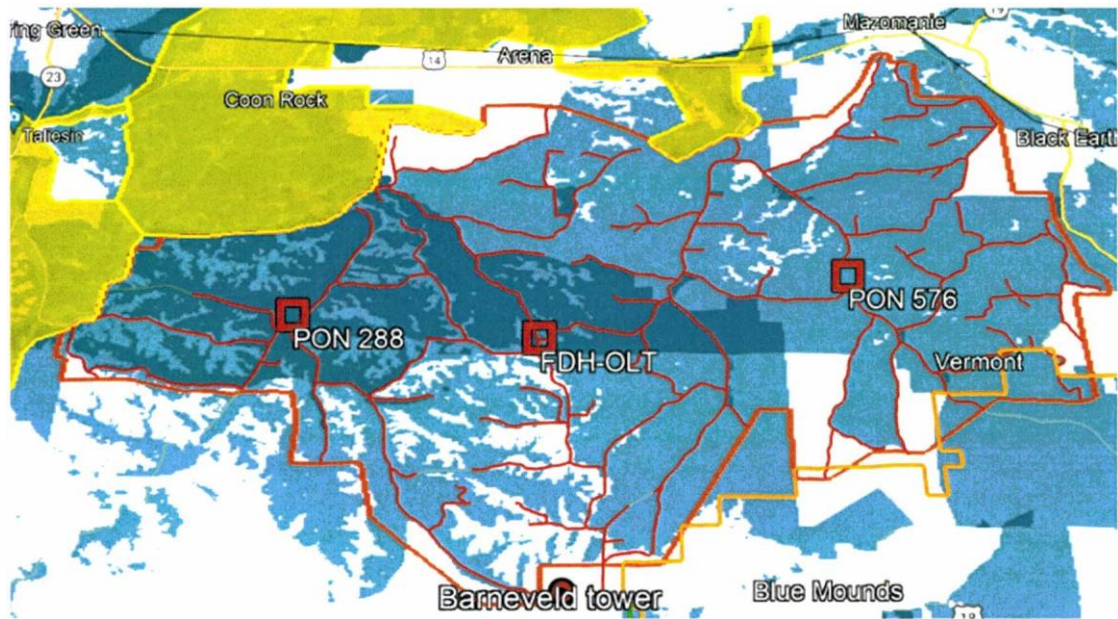

Kristy K. Spurley, Clerk
Iowa County

Exhibit A

Grant Application Project #1

The below map identifies unserved/underserved areas per PSC mapping:

- The dark blue shaded area is unserved territory
- The light blue shaded area is underserved territory
- The dark orange outline is the proposed grant area



Grant Application Project #2

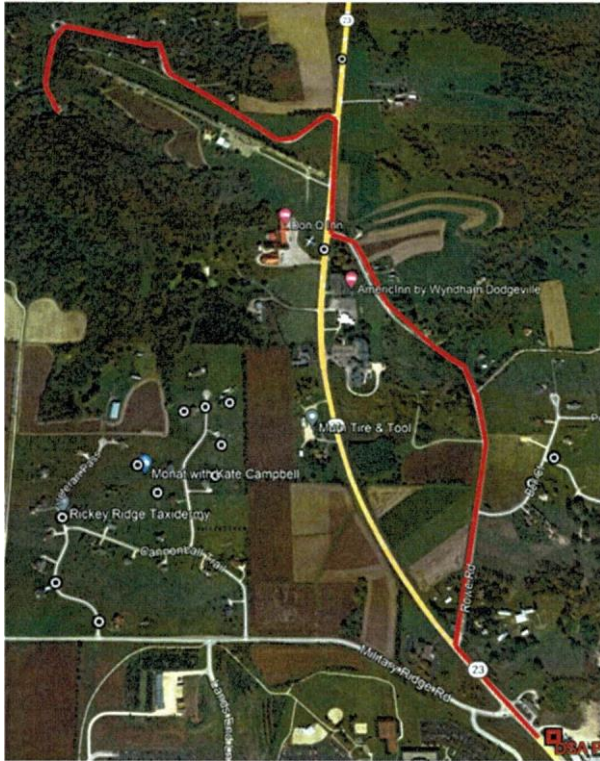
The map on the right identifies mainline fiber distribution for Hwy K South proposed grant area with fixed wireless towers

- The green line indicates the project mainline fiber route
- Fixed Wireless towers indicated with red circle
- You will notice that the majority of this area is considered served which MHTC is prepared to challenge



ollandell tower

Grant Application Project #3



The map to the left Indicates mainline fiber distribution for the proposed Green Leaf Glen project.

The map below indicates the area is considered served and MHTC is prepared to challenge this



Appendix-E: Public-Private Partnership Agreement with matching funds Town of Brigham

MH Telecom, LLC dba MHTC



AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR A BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT UNDER WIS. STAT. § 196.504

THIS **AGREEMENT** is made this 15th day of March 2022 ("**Effective Date**"), by and between the Town of Brigham (the "Town"), and MH Telecom, LLC, a Wisconsin limited liability corporation d/b/a MHTC. The Town and MHTC are collectively referred to as the "**Parties**."

RECITALS

- A. The Town seeks to promote the development of broadband services to unserved and underserved areas within its boundaries to support economic development and deliver broadband to rural families for educational and telecommuting opportunities by addressing existing service disparities.
- B. The Town in association with MHTC have identified an area of concern as an unserved area.
- C. MHTC, a Telecommunications Utility certified to provide telecommunications service in the State of Wisconsin, proposes to expand its broadband system to make broadband service (up to 1000 Mbps) available to all current and future businesses and residents in the area identified on the attached map (the "**Project**").
- D. The Town finds the Project to be in the public interest of certain residents and businesses with the Town of Brigham.
- E. The Parties intend that MHTC, with the Town as its public partner, apply to the State of Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant Program Fiscal Year 2022 ("**Grant Program**") pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.504 to obtain a grant to be used to pay for part of the cost of constructing the Project.

AGREEMENT

THE PARTIES agree as follows:

- 1. **Purpose.** The purpose of the Project is to provide broadband service to a defined area that the Town of Brigham and the MHTC share as a common interest to provide businesses and rural residents quality broadband service. Under this Agreement, the Parties agree to work together so that MHTC can apply to the Grant Program to obtain funds to be applied toward the construction of the Project. The Town agrees that, as MHTC's public partner, it will waive any fees related to the project and cooperate with MHTC in the preparation of MHTC's application to the Grant Program.
- 2. **Project. Exhibit A** is a map showing the Project area where MHTC fiber facilities are to be installed. The Project will extend MHTC's existing broadband backbone so that Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) service (with speeds of up to 1000 Mbps) can be extended to current and future businesses and rural residents in the Project area. The Project area is within a Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant Eligible Area.
- 3. **Project Funding.** MHTC estimates that the Town of Brigham County Road K South Project will cost \$1,220,810 ("**Estimated Project Cost**"). MHTC shall request 60% of the Estimated Project Cost (i.e., \$732,486) in its application to the Grant Program. The Town agrees to provide \$26,151 toward the cost



of the project. MHTC agrees to be responsible for the cost of the Project that exceeds the contributed funds from all Parties.

4. **Payment to MHTC.** The Town shall pay to MHTC the amount for which it is responsible under Paragraph 3 within 30 days after all the following conditions are met:
 - a. MHTC is awarded a grant for the Project from the Grant Program.
 - b. MHTC completes construction of the Project during the 2022 and/or 2023 calendar year.
 - c. MHTC provides to the Town a statement from a person authorized by MHTC to do so that the Project, as installed, has been successfully tested, that the Project is capable of providing speeds of up to 1000 Mbps, and that the Project is available to offer service to any and all locations in the Project area.
5. **Project Ownership.** At all times, MHTC shall have sole ownership of the Project and shall be solely responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project.
6. **Project Duration.** The project period for awarded grants will begin on the date of the Public Service Commission's (written) Order, subject to any objections, and ends after 24-months or in accordance with the grant Agreement.
7. **Liability.** MHTC shall have sole liability for the Project and any and all claims, obligations, liability, costs, demands, damages, expenses, fines, penalties, or causes of action ("**Claims**") that may arise from the Project and its construction, operation, or maintenance. MHTC and its successors shall indemnify and hold the Town and its officials, employees, and agents harmless from any and all Claims, including the costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees, which may arise out of the ownership, construction, maintenance, or operation of the Project regardless of any fault on the part of the Town, its officials, employees, or agents.
8. **Authorization.** Each Party represents and warrants that it has the authority to execute this Agreement.
9. **Records.** MHTC will maintain and be the custodian of all records associated with the administration and performance of this Agreement and will make those records available to the Town upon request. MHTC shall provide the Town with a copy of its application to the Grant Program at the same time the application is submitted to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.
10. **Reporting.** MHTC shall keep the Town informed of the progress of the project.
11. **Termination.** This Agreement shall become effective on the Effective Date and shall terminate upon completion of the Project. In the event that MHTC's grant application is unsuccessful, and it receives no money from the Grant Program, the Agreement shall immediately terminate. If the Project is not funded as requested, MHTC has the right to refuse the Grant offer and the Agreement will be terminated. If MHTC determines in its sole discretion that the proposed Grant Agreement between MHTC and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is not acceptable, MHTC has the right to refuse the Grant offer and the Agreement will be terminated.



12. **Amendments.** Any amendments to this Agreement must be in writing and executed and delivered by the Town and MHTC.
13. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, including its recitals and exhibits, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. There are no representations or understandings of any kind not stated in this Agreement.
14. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Wisconsin without regard to its conflict of law's provisions.
15. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

TOWN OF BRIGHAM
IOWA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

By: Jason Carden
Jason Carden, Town Chairperson

Date: March 15, 2022

By: Megan Mieden
Megan Mieden, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 3/15/2022

MH TELECOM, LLC dba MHTC

By: John Van Ooyen
John Van Ooyen, CEO/GM

Date: 3-16-2022



EXHIBIT A PROJECT MAP

- The green line indicates where the main line fiber will be installed
- The red circles indicate the 3 fixed wireless towers that this project will provide fiber egress to

